AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

On pages 2-3, please rewrite the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 as follows:

Pharmaceutical dosage forms containing combinations of antihyperglycemic drugs and thiazolidinedione derivatives have been proposed in the art. For example, EPO 0 749 751 (which is incorporated herein by reference) teaches pharmaceutical compositions comprising an insulin sensitivity enhancer, which could be a thiazolidinedione compound, in combination with other antidiabetics. More specifically, EPO 0 749 751 teaches that the preferred insulin sensitivity enhancer is pioglitazone, which can be combined with other antidiabetics such as metformin, phenformin or buformin, and further that these drugs can be associated (mixed and/or coated) with conventional excipients to provide taste masking or sustained release. Another example of a combination of antihyperglycemic drugs and thiazolidinedione derivatives is U.S. Pat. No. 6,011,049, (which is incorporated herein by reference). This patent teaches a single pharmaceutical composition that contains pioglitazone or trolitazone and metformin in slow release forms such as osmotic pumps or skin patches. Other combinations of antihyperglycemic drugs and thiazolidinedione derivatives can be found in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,524,621; 6,475,521; 6,451,342 and 6,153,632 and PCT patent applications WO ~~01/3594~~ 01/35940 and WO ~~01/3594~~ 01/35941, which are incorporated herein by reference.

On page 13, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 2 as follows:

The core tablet can be seal coated with an Opadry material or other suitable water-soluble material by first dissolving the opadry material, preferably Opadry Clear, in purified water. The Opadry solution is then sprayed onto the core tablet using a pan coater under the following conditions: exhaust air temperature of 38-42°C[[.]]; atomization pressure of 28-40 psi and spray ~~spay~~ rate of 10-15 ml/min. The core tablet is coated with the sealing solution until a theoretical coating level of approximately 2-4% is obtained.

On page 15, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 2 as follows:

The core tablet is seal coated with an Opadry material or other suitable water-soluble material by first dissolving the Opadry material, preferably Opadry Clear in purified water. The Opadry solution is then sprayed onto the core tablet using a pan coater under the following conditions: exhaust air temperature of 38-42°C; atomization pressure of 28-40 psi and spray ~~spay~~ rate of 10-15 ml/min. The core tablet is coated with the sealing solution until a theoretical coating level of approximately 2% is obtained.

On page 21, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 10 as follows:

The seal coat is prepared by dispersing 0.174 kg of Opadry Clear in 3.478 kg of ethanol and mixing the dispersion for 15 minutes. The dispersion is ~~than~~ then sprayed onto approximately 13.174 kg of the 1000 mg metformin HCl acetate coated tablets using a 24" O'Hara Labcoat III pan coater. The seal coat is applied to the 1000 mg metaformin HCl cellulose acetate coated osmotic tablets with the following conditions:

Spray Rate	10-30 ml/gun/min
Exhaust Temperature	25-45°C
Atomization Air Pressure	20-40 psi
Pan Speed	6-12 rpms
Pattern Air Pressure	20-40 psi
Inlet Air Flow	240-450 CFM

On page 22, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

Once the pioglitazone coating has been applied, an aesthetic or color coating of Opadry II White is applied to the pioglitazone coated tablets. The color coating is prepared by dispersing about 0.220 kg of Opadry II White in 4.407 kg of ethanol. The Opadry II White suspension is then ~~than~~ applied to the pioglitazone HCl coated tablets using a 24" O'Hara Labcoat III pan coater using conditions similar to those described above for the seal coating. Once the color coating is applied, the tablets are polished using 0.004 kg of Candelilla wax powder.

On page 23, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 11 as follows:

The seal coat is appled to the 1000 mg metformin HCL osmotic tablet. The seal coating is prepared by dispersing 0.229 kg of Opadry Clear in 4.573 kg of alcohol USP and mixing the dispersion for 15 minutes. The dispersion is ~~than~~ then sprayed onto approximately 13.08 kg of the 1000 mg metformin HCl tablet cores using a 24" OHara Labcoat III pan coater with the nozzle tip set 4±2" from the top of the static bed and the following conditions:

Spray Rate	25 ± 10 ml/gun/min
Exhaust Temperature	25°C ± 5°C
Atomization Pressure	10-40 psi
Pan Speed	4-9 rpm
Supply Air Flow	200±100 CFM
Pattern Air Pressure	10-40 psi

On page 24, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 15 as follows:

Once the pioglitazone coating has been applied to the seal coated 1000 mg metformin HCl osmotic tablets, an aesthetic coating of Opadry II White is applied to the pioglitazone coated tablet. The aesthetic coating is prepared by dispersing about 0.235 kg of Opadry II White (Y-22-7719) in 4.691 kg of alcohol USP and mixing the dispersion for about 1 hour. The Opadry II White dispersion is then ~~than~~ sprayed onto the pioglitazone HCl coated tablets using a 24" O'Hara Labcoat III pan coater with the nozzle tip set 4±2" from the top of the static bed and the following conditions:

Spray Rate	25 ± 10 ml/gun/min
Exhaust Temperature	25°C ± 5°C
Atomization Pressure	10-40 psi
Pan Speed	4-9 rpm
Supply Air Flow	200±100 CFM
Pattern Air Pressure	10-40 psi

On page 24, please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 30 as follows:

The color ~~Thecolor~~ coating dispersion is continuously stirred until the dispersion is consumed during the coating process.